(b) the funds disbursed by OIDB to Petroleum Sector till March, 1997;

(c) the name of the Oil Companies/ guarantee institutions which did not draw the funds for which projections were made by them; and

(d) the reasons for non-drawal of funds?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) A sum of Rs. 28,900 crores approximately has been collected as cess on crude oil upto the end of March, 1997.

(b) An amount of Rs. 7607 crores (approx.) has been disbursed by OIDB to the Petroleum Sector till March, 1997 in the form of loans and grants.

(c) and (d) Oil Companies and grantee institutions had drawn funds as per their requirements.

Import of LNG for Power Sector

419. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any project to import of LNG for power sector by the ONGC, IOC and GAIL;

(b) whether Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if so, whether the terminal for import of LNG is proposed to be set up in Gujarat for giving benefit to the power projects including starved Power Project of Pipavav; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Union Government has approved formation of Joint Venture Company with equity participation upto 50% from GAIL, ONGC, IOC and BPCL for import of LNG and setting up of LNG terminals.

(c) The new Joint Venture Company is examining the various parts in Gujarat for the import of LNG to be utilised mainly for the power sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Extension of Long Distance Trains Upto Gandhidham

420. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand for the extension of long distance trains upto Gandhidham;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon alongwith the details of long distance trains proposed to be extended upto Gandhidham?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There have been some demands in this regard.

(b) Extension of trains including of Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Madras-Ahmedabad Express etc. upto Gandhidham has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Authorisation of Travel Agencies for the Ticket Reservations

421. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have appointed a number of travel agencies authorising them to arrange reserved tickets for the public;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions such agencies are appointed;

(c) whether any monitoring and checking authority has also been appointed to avoid indulgence in malpractices by such agencies;